

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are not allowing me to ask question. Whenever I rise, you say something, you say that you would allow me. Therefore, I stage a walk out.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Should the other question be allowed or not?

[Translation]

11.59 hrs.

At this stage Shri Datta Meghe left the House.

Loan on Low Interest for Exporters

[Translation]

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*285. KUMARI UMA BHARATI:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give maximum loan on low interest rate to exporters keeping in view the increasing challenges in world market;

(b) whether the Government have also received any request in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard and also to increase the limit of loan; and

(d) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (d) Banks have been advised from time to time by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to ensure that exporters, credit needs are met in full and promptly. Exporters can avail of Rupee packing credit at 13 per cent upto 180 days and at 15 per cent for period beyond 180 days and upto 270 days. In the monetary policy for second half of 1996-97, the interest rate on post-shipment Rupee credit has been further rationalised. Rupee post-shipment credit is available at 13 per cent up to 90 days and at 15 per cent for period beyond 90 days and upto six months from the date of shipment. For ensuring smooth flow of credit to export sector, instructions have been issued by RBI to banks to ensure that:

(i) no worthwhile export order suffers for want of finance;

(ii) grievances of exporter-borrowers in the matter of timely and adequate sanction of credit limits are redressed promptly;

(iii) sanction of fresh/enhanced limits/renewal of limits is made within the period stipulated where application is received with complete details and cases of rejection of export credit proposals are brought to the notice of Chief Executives explaining reasons for rejection;

(iv) export credit target of 12.0 per cent (enhanced from 10.0 per cent under the monetary policy for second half of 1996-97) to net bank credit is achieved by 31st March, 1997.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In a Note submitted in October 1996 to the Ministry of Commerce, the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) had, inter alia, made certain suggestions regarding credit facilities to the exporters. These include revision of the target for export credit as a percentage of net bank credit, reduction of interest rates for export credit, further review of rate of interest beyond 90 days and upto 180 days, review of interest rates on overdue bills, review of methods of lending to export sector, and some procedural aspects relating to export credit. Also, in a letter dated 24th February, 1997 to Ministry of Finance, the All India Association of Industries has suggested that the Reserve Bank of India should further reduce the interest rate of export credit.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, as per the recent economic survey the export of India has declined even after making provision of providing loans from the Reserve Bank of India. It seems to me that the reason for decline in the export is that the local traders in Indian market would have been down morally due to the invitation extended by the Finance Minister to the people who ruled over country for 200 years and inflicted us, for ruling again India, because India is also a part of world market. After that perhaps persons who take loans in Indian market must have been discouraged. Therefore, I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister the reasons for the decline in the export even after making provision for this loan. The Minister may please reply it.

[English]

I hope the Minister could understand what I was saying.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: This question deals with credit for exporters. Earlier it was provided that ten per cent of outstanding credit must be given to exporters. After this Government took over and when the busy season credit policy was announced by the Reserve Bank on 19th October, 1996 the Reserve Bank raised the 10 per cent to 12 per cent. I am glad to inform the House that as on 14th February, 1997 all the banks put together have given credit to exporters, 11.34 per cent of the total

outstanding credit. I am confident that, that will achieve the 12 per cent target by the year ending 31st March, 1997. The credit, therefore, is not a problem for exporters. If exporters have other problems, I am sure the hon. Members will put a question to the Minister of Commerce and he will deal with the other problems. Credit is not a problem.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Coal Depots

*286. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number and locations of centralised coal depots in the Bharat Coking Coal Limited and the cost

incurred in setting them up;

(b) the annual transporting capacity of each of these depots;

(c) whether they are functioning as per their capacity;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the amount as 'dumping charge' taken per tonne on coal sold from these depots; and

(f) the objective of setting up these depots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Names and locations of the centralised coal depots in Bharat Coking Coal Limited, their transporting capacity and the expenditure incurred in setting up of these stockyards are given in the following table:-

Name of Depot	Location	Capacity per annum (In tonnes)	Cost Incurred (Rs. in lakhs)
1. Katras Depot	Katras Area	384000	122.88
2. Ramkrishna Depot	Chanch		
	Victoria Area	138500	46.42
3. West Mudidih Depot	Katras Area	186500	8.80
4. East Basseria Depot	Kusunda Area	720000	197.64
5. Alakdiha Depot	Bastacola Area	912000	159.55

(c) and (d) Two coal depots namely, East Basseria and Alakdiha are not functioning since 1994. Despatches made from the remaining three coal depots during the last three years are given below:-

Name of Depot	(Despatches in tonnes)		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Katras Depot	226477	255972	170407
Ramkrishna Depot	172735	179210	127934
West Mudidih Depot	311571	168906	270105

(e) Coal depots presently charge dump charges at the rate of Rs. 80/- per tonne of despatch of coal/coke.

(f) The objective of setting up of centralised coal depots in BCCL envisaged that all road despatches to Road sale consumers would be effective from the depots which are situated strategically near the collieries thus restricting entry of Road sale consumers to the colliery premises.

[English]

Projects Financed by NABARD

*287. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of projects financed by NABARD in each State during the last three years and the funds sought, released and actually utilised;

(b) the details of achievements made under these projects;

(c) the details of fresh proposals recently cleared/under consideration of NABARD; and

(d) the details of financial assistance rendered to cooperative industrial ventures of SC/ST community in Maharashtra and action taken for non release/delay in release of funds by the State Government for such projects?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) sanctions loans to State Governments and State-owned Corporations for completion of on-going projects relating to major, medium and minor irriga-